

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 00587 031041Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 /085 W  
-----102187 031046Z /13

O R 030615Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE ASHDC IMMEDIATE 1700

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY MASERU

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0587

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PINS, BC, RH

SUBJECT: FUNERAL OF BDF CASULTIES FROM KAZUNGULA ATTACK

REF: (A) GABORONE 0576, (B) STATE 053334

1. ONE OF THE LARGEST CROWDS IN HISTORY OF BOTSWANA THRONGED  
GABORONE CEMETERY MARCH 2 FOR FUNERAL OF BDF SOLDIERS AND  
CIVILIANS KILLED IN RHODESIAN AMBUSH OF BDF PATROL (REF A).  
VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE AND SEVERAL LOCAL CLERGYMEN ADDRESSED  
CROWD WHICH INCLUDED PRESIDENT AND LADY KHAMA, GOB OFFICIALS,  
MEMBERS OF GABORONE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND BATSWANA FROM ALL  
WALKS OF LIFE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 00587 031041Z

2. DUE TO COMMUNICATIONS DIFFICULTIES, PRESIDENT  
CARTER'S MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE (REF B) REACHED US JUST  
PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF FUNERAL SERVICE AND WAS PASSED BY  
CHARGE TO VP MASIRE AT GRAVESIDE. DURING HIS SPEECH,  
MASIRE ANNOUNCED THAT MANY CONDOLENCE MESSAGES HAD BEEN  
RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE, AND HE SINGLED

OUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S MESSAGE FOR SPECIAL MENTION. IN VIEW OF PROFOUND IMPACT THIS INCIDENT HAS HAD ON PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA, WE GREATLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE EFFORTS TO PROVIDE TIMELY EXPRESSION OF PERSONAL CONDOLENCE AND NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION WITH BOTSWANA.

3. WE CONTINUE TO SEE EVIDENCE THAT THIS INCIDENT HAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BATSWANA AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY. VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE ISSUES OF DAILY NEWS FOR MARCH 1 AND 2 HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO THIS STORY, AND UNUSUALLY FORCEFUL EDITORIAL APPEARS ON MARCH 2 FRONT PAGE. IT LABELS RSF ATTACK "BLATANT ACT OF NAKED SAVAGERY AND BARBARISM" AND RIDICULES NOTION THAT BDF PATROL COULD HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN FOR "FREEDOM FIGHTERS". EDITORIAL STATES THAT CONTINUING RHODESIAN BUILDUP IN KAZUNGULA BORDER AREA IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF AGGRESSIVE RHODESIAN DESIGNS AGAINST BOTSWANA.

4. DAILY NEWS EDITORIAL ALSO CONDEMNS "ATTEMPT BY SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORS TO COLOR THE FACTS AND EXPLAIN AWAY THE VILLAINOUS ACTS OF THE SMITH REGIME. THOSE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO TRY TO SUGGEST THAT MR. SMITH'S MEN MISTOOK OUR BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE UNIT FOR FREEDOM FIGHTERS." EDITORIAL APPEARS TO BE REACTION TO SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS ACCOUNTS WHICH HAVE GIVEN ROUGHLY EQUAL WEIGHT TO RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCE COMMUNIQUE AND GOB VERSION OF

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 00587 031041Z

EVENTS.

5. COMMENT: NOW THAT EMOTIONAL FUNERAL CEREMONY IS OVER, GOB WILL PROBABLY COME UNDER INCREASING PUBLIC PRESSURE TO RESPOND IN SOME TANGIBLE FASHION TO RHODESIAN ATTACK. SINCE ITS CAPABILITIES FOR MILITARY OR ECONOMIC RETALIATION ARE NEGLIGIBLE, BOTSWANA COULD DECIDE TO MAKE INDIVIDUAL APPEAL TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL AS IT DID OVER BORDER CLASHES WITH RHODESIA IN JANUARY 1977. ALTERNATIVELY GOB MIGHT DECIDE TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT NIGERIAN CALL FOR SC SESSION TO CONDEMN SALISBURY AGREEMENT. IN ANY EVENT, WE NOW CANNOT HEAVILY COUNT ON GOB SUPPORT IN HEADING OFF PREMATURE AND POSSIBLY DAMAGING SC CONSIDERATION OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM. ALBERTI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BORDER INCIDENTS, DEATHS, STATE FUNERALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978GABORO00587  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780097-0654  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GABORONE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197803111/aaaadqbh.tel  
**Line Count:** 108  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 36b8bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 GABORONE 576, 78 STATE 53334  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3131951  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FUNERAL OF BDF CASULTIES FROM KAZUNGULA ATTACK  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PGOV, PINS, PBOR, BC, RH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/36b8bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014